

(b) if so, the investment proposed to be made and source thereof; and

(c) the capacity proposed to be increased ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) M/s ITI Ltd. has proposed modernisation, induction of new products and some expansion during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) The proposed investment is estimated to be Rs. 325 crores. The Company has requested for budgetary support, which will be examined in consultation with other concerned departments.

(c) The Company proposes to expand the capacity of C-Dot Switching Equipment. Keeping in view the demand, the Company also proposes to add capacities for new products viz. New Terminal Equipment, Access products, new products in Microwave etc.

Mica Industry

5370. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated for research and exploration work in Mica industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether proper utilisation of the above amount was made during the last three years of the plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and amount spent on research and exploration work till December, 1996; and

(d) the details of the research and exploration work done for the development of Mica Industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) During the field seasons 1994-95 and 1995-96 (within VIII plan period) Geological Survey of India carried out regional surveys for mica pegmatite and associated mica and rare earth minerals in Nellore Schist belt north of Pennar River, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh and a total of Rs. 68,216/- (excluding salaries and allowances of the officials) was incurred.

In view of absence of new significant finds of Mica and other associated minerals, the investigation has been discontinued.

[Translation]

Setting up of Coach Factory in Gujarat

5371. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up rail coach factory in Gujarat especially in Tribal area of Chhota Udaipur;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are two coach manufacturing units in Indian Railways, one at Chennai and one at Kapurthala. Each factory can manufacture about 1000 coaches per year. In addition there are two factories in the public sector that are capable of manufacturing coaches.

With the available coach manufacturing capacity in the country, there is, at present, no proposal to set up another coach manufacturing unit.

Railway Crossings in Uttar Pradesh

5372. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down unmanned Railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the number of such Railway crossings proposed to be closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 105 Nos.

[English]

Travel By Jawans From Jammu and Kashmir Region

5373. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of armed forces and Para-military personnel travel in trains from Jammu and Kashmir region;

(b) if so, the facilities provided by railways to them;

(c) whether these Jawans travel in unreserved coaches for 2-3 days continuously due to lackness of reservation facilities;

(d) if so, the number of places where reservation facilities are available in Jammu and Kashmir region for these Jawans;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide computerised reservation extension counters at Srinagar, Udhampur and Rajori to facilitate these Jawans;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government propose to start Army

Special Train at least twice a week to facilitate the movement of security personnel; and

(i) if so, the time by which the said train is likely to be started;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whenever there is movement of units on duty, railways run out Special Trains from Jammu as per requisition of military and para-military forces. In addition, separate reservation quota has been provided in various trains for the exclusive use of military personnel and at least one general second class compartment has been earmarked in all mail/express trains leaving Jammu Tawi Station for exclusive use of the military personnel. In addition, a monthly special train is run from Jammu to Delhi to facilitate clearance of military personnel going on leave. Some general accommodation has also been earmarked for CRPF/BSF personnel in important trains.

(c) The military personnel travel in reserved class as well as in unreserved coaches earmarked for them.

(d) to (g) Exclusive reservation quota is available for Defence personnel with MCO, Jammu. The excess demand of military personnel and the demand of paramilitary forces for reserved accommodation can be obtained by them from the Computerised Reservation Offices on First-come-first-served basis.

Computerised reservation facilities are available at Jammu Tawi Railway Station from where Jawans may make reservations. Jammu reservation office has been provided connectivity with the Systems of Mumbai, Calcutta and Madras alongwith Delhi System. Discussions are on with the Department of Posts, who is responsible for the operation of the computerised reservation office at Srinagar to accept travel vouchers tendered by the security forces. Due to lack of adequate infrastructure and staff, provision of these facilities is not being considered at Udhampur and Rajouri at present.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Uttar Pradesh

5374. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post-offices proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98, district-wise;

(b) the number of post-offices out of the total number of proposed to be opened in Mohanlalganj constituency in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the proposed locations ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to open 6 Departmental Sub Post Offices and 70 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices in the State of Uttar Pradesh during the Annual Plan, 1997-98. The allocation of targets is done Postal Circle-wise and not district-wise. Post offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of targets and resources. The proposal is formulated whenever there is either a demand for post office or a justification for the same is felt during the course of day to day functioning. The proposal is then examined and only when it is found to be justified on the basis of the departmental norms of population, distance and Income Post Office is sanctioned subject to availability of resources.

[English]

Telephone Connections in Karnataka

5375. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Karnataka during the last six months;

(b) the number of telephone connections disconnected in the rural areas of Karnataka during the above period; district-wise;

(c) the details and reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide install tower type telephone connections in Karnataka particularly in Chikmagalur district; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of telephone connections provided in Karnataka during the October, 1996 to March, 1997 are as follows :—

Month	Number of Connections	
	Provided	
October	1996	5871
November	1996	9984
December	1996	2234
January	1997	19478
February	1997	27959
March	1997	71598

(b) and (c) Information in this regard is being collected from the field units and the same will be placed on the table of the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It is proposed to provide about 200 tower type of telephone connections (Multi Access Radio Relay Sys-